

## Non-Toxic Alternatives to Hazardous Household Chemicals

Did you ever wonder what people used before fancy household cleaners were invented? Like, what did your great-great-grandparents use to clean out a clogged drain? Maybe they used some of the cleaning concoctions below. They may take a little more elbow grease and might seem kind of goofy, but they are better for your health and for the environment than some other household chemicals. Remember to use caution even when using "less-toxic" chemicals.

FOR THIS	TRY THIS
<b>Ants in the house</b>	Red chili powder at point of entry, seal off entry
<b>Brass polish</b>	Salt and vinegar or Worcestershire sauce
<b>Carpet cleaner (to remove fresh food stains)</b>	Club soda
<b>Chrome polish</b>	Cider vinegar
<b>Copper cleaner</b>	Lemon juice with a little salt
<b>Disinfectant</b>	Bleach (generally less toxic than other cleaners)
<b>Drain cleaner</b>	1/2 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup vinegar and 2 quarts boiling water
<b>Fertilizer</b>	Compost your fruit and vegetable scraps
<b>Furniture polish</b>	1 tablespoon lemon oil in 1 pint mineral oil
<b>Hand cleaner (to clean off paint or grease)</b>	Baby oil
<b>Floor cleaner</b>	1 cup white vinegar mixed with 2 gallons water
<b>Mosquito repellent</b>	Cedar chips or Citronella candles
<b>Oven cleaner</b>	For baked-on spills, use 2 tablespoons soap plus 2 tablespoons borax plus warm water and steel wool
<b>Paint: oil-based, stains, and sprays</b>	Water-base, non-aerosol paints
<b>Rust stain remover (to get stains out of clothing)</b>	Lemon juice and salt plus sunlight
<b>Clear shoe polish</b>	Banana peel
<b>Silver polish</b>	1 quart warm water, 1 tablespoon baking soda, a piece of aluminum foil and 1 tablespoon salt
<b>Spot remover</b>	Club soda, lemon juice and salt
<b>Window cleaner</b>	2 tablespoons vinegar mixed in 1 quart water

Source: Sally McDole, WSU-Cooperative Extension, Jefferson County, Washington